

Call to Worship: Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so we might live through him.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,

Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP July 9, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 184
*The Call to Worship and Invocation
The Scripture ---- Isaiah 6
*The Gloria Patri
*The Apostles Creed Page 23
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 246
The Meditation -- "Eyes, Ears and Change"
The Communion Hymn 341
*The Order of Holy Communion Page 32
*The Seraphic Hymn #522
The Institution of The Lord's Supper
The Consecration of the Elements
The Communion (Please retain the elements until all are served)
*The Prayer of Thanksgiving
*The Hymn of Response 221
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

An appeal is still being issued for good usable furniture. What is needed mostly is living room furniture and sofas in particular. Also needed badly are chests of drawers. If you have anything to donate, it may be delivered to the fire hall, or call the Public Assistance Office and it will be picked up.

The pick-up of bottles for recycling has been rescheduled to August 12. This gives us about a month to gather up all of the glass cluttering our area. Our stewardship is to our environment also, so to make our county as well as God's earth clean, please save your bottles. Newspapers will be collected in New Bloomfield Friday evening July 21st starting at 6 p.m. Duncannon residents and RD residents may bring their papers and magazines to Tressler's Esso station. Bundle papers and magazines separately please.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

COOPERATIONAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH

The regular Consistory meeting will be held this coming Tuesday July 11th at 7:30 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Missionary Circle with the help of others will conduct worship the Kinkora Home today at 2:00 p.m.

*HEIDELBERG AT 7:30 TUESDAY
AT CHURCH*

"Eyes, Ears and Change"

Text: Isaiah 6:9,10 Jer. Bible "Go and say to this people, 'Hear and hear again, but do not understand; see and see again, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people gross, its ears dull; shut its eyes, so that it will not see with its eyes, hear with its ears, understand with its heart, and be converted and healed."

In each of the Gospels we read the parable of the sower. In Matthew it is found ~~in it~~ in a much more expanded version. At the very end of it Jesus makes the statement, "He who has ears, let him hear." Then follows a question by the disciples, "Why do you speak in parables?" ~~Jesus's answer is that~~ The answer Jesus gives is an expansion of the prophecy of Isaiah which we read as scripture this morning. Isaiah had spoken what God had told him to say. His message was, "Go and say to this people. 'Hear and hear again, but do not understand; see and see again, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people gross, its ears dull; shut its eyes, so that it will not see with its eyes, hear with its ears, understand with its heart, and be converted and healed."

We live in a world of constant change. If you disagree, think back a few months when the snow was piled high on the front street and we were unable to have church. Now everything is green and there is nothing left to give an indication of winter and its toll. A week or so ago we were in the midst of a horrible disaster. Many things have been swept away and changes have been made in lives and people. A few more weeks and ~~the~~ everything will be almost back to normal, thus hiding what was a horrible nightmare to many. Not too long ago a veteran of the Normandy invasion went back to France to re-visit the scenes of that historic battle. The pictures that were shown, hid the terrible destruction of life and land that took place on that day of June 6, 1944. But 25 years or so can overcome a lot of things and work a lot of changes.

Jesus came into the world and preached a new message. He taught not only of the love of God, but of a need for change in the

Following
BAPT

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people of God. But he realized that ^{BECAUSE ARE} people ~~being~~ victims of the sins of the flesh, it ^{is} ~~was~~ difficult for them to change. It was and is a tremendous task to have people willingly change themselves or their lives. It is so comfortable to go along the same old track, to follow the same habits, the same customs. To impose change disrupts the continuity of things and causes an uproar wherever change is proposed. Change threatens our little kingdoms we have built for ourselves and surrounded ourselves with. Change makes us see that perhaps we have been following the wrong priorities for years and so we close our eyes. Change advocated verbally, may make us realize that too long we have been victims of the old status quo and we should be moving toward new and better ways of serving, and so we close our ears.

But the message ~~was~~ given long ago by a prophet of God, ~~and it~~ is still the same today, "Hear and hear again, but do not understand; see and see again, but do not perceive." Our hearts have become gross, our ears dull; we shut our eyes so we do not see, ^{we} ~~close~~ our ears, so we do not hear, and we close our hearts because we do not want to understand, and so we cannot be converted and healed."

I have served approximately 8 individual churches during the last 6 years, in varied capacities. In each of them, when it became known that I was contemplating going to seminary, invariably ~~some-~~ ^{those} one from ~~that~~ congregations would express a wish that I would not change or that I would not let Seminary change me. Their fears were grounded in the fact that some of the later seminary graduates have been rather radical, and their fear was that I should turn this way. So I entered seminary with the thought that I did not intend to change. But, I have found that this is impossible to do. I do not mean that I am changed into a radical or have radical ideas. I merely mean that I find myself continually changing. I find myself becoming more conservative in my thinking, and becoming more fundamental in my view-

points. My message is still the same, but it seems to revolve more and more around the one basic principle of Christ, and that is, we must change. We must be converted, and converted merely means to change. We must be changed and only then can we be healed. Everything else is secondary. All of the works, and all of the efforts in all of the churches comes second to the command and the demand that we individually change, or turn around.

You yourselves have changed and are changing. I have noted a difference in both of our congregations. I sense a desire to continue to change and to become much more than just people coming to church out of habit. This is what Jesus demands of us in our lives. He demands that we must change, we must turn from the old and make the changes in our lives and in our churches that need to be made.

Today as we once again gather around the Lord's table, we are reminded that our Saviour gave himself for us, so that we may have the forgiveness of our sins. Coming to the Lord's table, should work a change in each of us. We should come here with all of our old selves intact; all of our sins, all of our problems and cares; all of the things that keep us from being true followers of our Master. But, after we have ^{PARTAKEN} ~~eaten~~ of the body and blood of our Saviour, we should ^{NEW CREATURES} leave new creations. ^A Renewed in body and in spirit. Changed individuals.

I heard Bob Harrington the chaplain of Bourbon Street, on the radio the other night. He was telling of a recent visit to Viet Nam. He said he was riding in a cab and the driver was a Buddhist. He learned this from questioning him. He asked the man why he was not a Christian and the man answered that if it was good to be a Christian, just as it was good to be a Buddhist, then ~~how~~ he would become a Christian Buddhist. Mr. Harrington said he explained this was not possible, but they could discuss the merits of each religion, and perhaps in that way the driver would understand the difference between the two religions.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.